

## Acceptance Speech May

It is an honor to be standing before you as your president for 2011-2013. I look forward to the next two years as an opportunity to be a part of a great organization.

Mary Lou Goodman is a tough act to follow. She, and the Presidents preceding her have worked long and hard to make The Garden Club of North Carolina a success. Mary Lou is one of the really true good people I have ever known. Never an unkind word or action. Ladies, Gentlemen, the nice times are over. I cannot be accused of never having an unkind word to say. Just ask the Charlotte Council of Garden Clubs!

As members of The Garden Club of North Carolina, Inc. we face some challenges in the next two years. These challenges can be overcome by working together.

I know many of you are anxiously awaiting my choice of theme for the next two years. I had thought of something very sophisticated and flowery. But, well...that wasn't going to work for me. At least, that is what I was told.

Whenever I am asked why join a garden club or stay a federated garden club I always say to "Make a Difference". Since I realized that is what I consistently saying it seemed logical for that to be my theme.

Whether we are working together or alone, when we are a part of GCNC we "Make a Difference".

We "Make a Difference" along our roadsides in our work with the Department of Transportation.

We "Make a Difference" in the joy we bring to people when they visit our gardens.

We "Make a Difference" when we sponsor youth garden clubs.

We "Make a Difference" with our Blue Star Memorial Markers.

We "Make a Difference" in our community involvement.

We "Make a Difference" just by being a garden club member when we request our legislators to consider the environment when debating bills.

I hope to "Make a Difference" with the new ideas that will be introduced in the next two years.

I plan to send out an e-mail newsletter every other month to keep all garden club members informed about what is going on with GCNC. This newsletter will go to all the District Directors who will then forward it to their clubs.

We will have a new website. There will be a members only section so that we will be able to put contact information for awards and committees. I would like to thank Anne and Ed Brown who, since its inception, has maintained our website so ably.

We are working on bringing our member clubs under the non-profit status of GCNC. This has been done successfully in many states. It will be a lengthy process (as is everything with the IRS) but then our clubs will be able to participate in projects and grant programs that were off limits to them in the past.

There is no member of a garden club that is not important to GCNC. We all "Make a Difference" and I hope to "Make a Difference" to The Garden Club of North Carolina, Inc.